

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: SEN. SCOTT MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO

1. SUMMARY. SENATOR SCOTT'S PERSISTENCE IN PRESSING CHINESE ON TAIWAN ISSUE, AND VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO'S APPARENT MISCONSTRUAL OF A REMARK BY THE SENATOR, PRODUCED A RETORT BY CHANG THAT THE PLA WOULD

CUT THE "TAIWAN NOOSE" OFF THE NECK OF THE U.S. IF THE U.S. DIDN'T TAKE IT OFF. CHANG ALSO VOLUNTEERED COMMENT ON RECENT PRC MILITARY EXERCISES IN FUKIEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TAIWAN ISSUE WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF A TWO HOUR DISCUSSION HELD THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 13) AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE BY SENATOR SCOTT AND VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CYIAO. OBVIOUSLY PRIMED IN ADVANCE (THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR SCOTT AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO), CHANG EMPLOYED TOUGH AND UNCOMPROMISING LANGUAGE TO DRIVE HOME HIS CENTRAL POINT: THE CHINESE ARMY IS PREPARED TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN QUESTION BY FORCE.

3. CHANG DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT:
--CHINA CANNOT CONSIDER ITSELF UNIFIED UNTIL TAIWAN IS "LIBERATED."
--CHINA IS CURRENTLY MAKING PREPARATIONS. NOTING THIS, CHANG SAID TO SCOTT: "THIS IS NO MILITARY SECRET. THE SENATOR SURELY KNOWS THAT IN RECENT DAYS IN FUKIEN WE HAVE CONDUCTED SMALL-SCALE MILITARY
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EXERCISES. TAIWAN IS VERY NERVOUS."

--THE "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN IS CHINA'S DOMESTIC AFFAIR IN WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

--CHINA'S HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE HAD TAUGHT IT THAT

"PEACEFUL LIBERATION" IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY AND THAT IT WAS

"MORE RELIABLE" TO SETTLE SUCH QUESTIONS AS TAIWAN "THROUGH WARFARE."

4. MUCH -- BUT NOT ALL -- OF CHANG'S SHARPNESS APPARENTLY

STEMMED FROM SCOTT'S EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "WE WILL ALL TAKE

GREAT SATISFACTION IN AN ULTIMATE PEACEFUL SOLUTION."

CHANG ASKED SCOTT WHETHER "ULTIMATE PEACEFUL SOLUTION" REFERRED

TO US-CHINA RELATIONS OR TO "RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE

CHIANG CHING-KUO REGIME IN TAIWAN." SCOTT'S REPLY "I SPOKE OF THE US

AND CHINA" WAS TAKEN BY CHANG AS A THREAT; CHANG STATED "I DON'T UNDE

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STAND. DO YOU THINK CHINA AND THE US SHOULD FIGHT A WAR OVER

TAIWAN? TAIWAN IS TOTALLY A DOMESTIC ISSUE."

5. WHEN SCOTT PICKED UP THE ISSUE THAT CHANG HAD ATTEMPTED TO DROP

--STATING THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO ARGUE, GIVEN THE CLARITY OF

THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS -- CHANG RETORTED: "WE ARE VERY CLEAR ON

TAIWAN. SINCE THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN HAS ARISEN, THIS IS A NOOSE

AROUND THE NECK OF THE US. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE TO TAKE IT OFF. IF YOU DON'T, THE PLA

WILL CUT IT OFF. THIS WILL BE GOOD BOTH FOR THE AMERICAN

AND CHINESE PEOPLES...WE ARE GENEROUS...WE ARE READY TO

HELP THE US SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY OUR BAYONETS -- PERHAPS THAT

DOESN'T SOUND PLEASANT BUT THAT IS THE WAY IT IS." ASKED BY

SCOTT WHAT HE MEANT, CHANG SHOT BACK: "TO OVERTHROW THE CHIANG

CLIQUE."

6. ELSEWHERE CHANG REAFFIRMED -- AS CHIAO HAD YESTERDAY -- THE

CHINESE INSISTENCE THAT THE JAPANESE FORMULA AND ITS THREE TENETS

SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR US-PRC NORMALIZATION.

7. THE CUTTING NATURE OF THIS EXCHANGE CARRIED OVER INTO SUBSEQUENT

DISCUSSION OF THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES. AFTER CHANG LED OFF BY OBSERVING

THAT "IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA BOTH SIDES HAVE MANY POINTS IN

COMMON," HE ACIDULOUSLY REMARKED:

--"YOU DIDN'T HANDLE ANGOLA VERY BEAUTIFULLY."

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--"YOU MUST THINK THAT THE (SOVIET) POLAR BEAR IS HUNGRY SO YOU

FEED IT YOUR GRAIN." WHEN SCOTT RETORTED THAT SALE OF FOOD IS NOT

AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, CHANG SAID THAT THE FOOD FOR PEACE

PROGRAM WAS JUST SUCH AN INSTRUMENT. CHANG DISPARAGED US SALE OF

GRAIN TO CHINA, SAYING THAT EVEN MAJOR US SALES WOULD "ONLY

PUT A FEW GRAINS IN EACH RICE BOWL OF CHINA'S 800 MILLIONS."

8. FULL TEXT AND FURTHER COMMENT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTELS.

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